

Higher Order Thinking Proficiencies and Recipes

CRITICAL THINKING p. 13			
Analyze p. 15	Evaluate p. 23	Problem-Solve p. 31	
P = preview the whole situation	J = justify essential criteria	S = select the problem	
A = Assess similarities and differences	U = use to weigh against the criteria	O = opt for a strategy	
R = reorganize by these similarities	D = decide how well the criteria are	L = look for information	
and differences	met	V = verify facts and data needed	
T = turn the analysis into a summary	G = gather the sum total	E = express alternative and selected	
or synthesis	E = express final judgment	solutions	
CREATIVE THINKING p. 39			
Generate p. 41	Associate p. 49	Hypothesize p. 57	
F = first blast – call out a burst of	S = scan the list of ideas for	A = ask questions about the target	
ideas, connect to the topic	associations	idea or situation	
L = long list – add more words by	P = play along with connections made	H = harbor conscious connections	
associating and piggybacking on ideas	A = allow anything	A = announce the hunch, and try to	
O = open mind – anything goes; defer	R = review again for more related	confirm	
judgment, go with the flow	ideas		
W = work with the best – select the	K = keep the best for development		
best idea, target the one with the			
most potential			
COMPLEX THINKING p. 65			
Clarify p. 67	Interpret p. 75	Determine p. 83	
S = seek the meaning of words and	X (ex) = Ex amine and ex press the gist	N = note key points	
phrases	R = rank key words and phrases	O = observe options	
E = express these in your own words	A = account for tenor and tone	T = think it through and identify	
E = expose the essence of the idea in	Y = yield a personal opinion or	possibilities	
the simplest terms	interpretation	E = express personal choice	
COMPREHENSIVE THINKING p. 89			
Understand p. 91	Infer p. 99	Compare and Contrast p. 107	
G = get the big idea, main idea, or	I = investigate the facts	A = account for literal similarities &	
theme	N = note all details	differences	
I = identify details to support the main	F = find the common thread	L = look again; don't miss the obvious	
idea	E = explain the connections	I = investigate the hidden details of	
S = say it in your own words	R = reach your conclusion	likeness and difference	
T = test by creating a summary		K = know the categories	
		E = express in alternating or dual	
		descriptions	
COLLABORATIVE THINKING p. 115			
Explain p. 117	Develop p. 125	Decide p. 131	
T = tell the big idea	M = meet to discuss the issue	K = know all the options	
E = express supporting statements	A = ask questions	N = note the pluses/minuses,	
L = look for more details	K = kick ideas around	pros/cons	
L = listen for questions and respond	E = express the goal and plan	O = outline probable, possible, and	
		preferable solutions	
		W = welcome a decision, and	
		celebrate	

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COMMUNICATIVE THINKING p. 137			
Reason p. 139	Connect p. 147	Represent p. 155	
L = look at all the facts	J = judge the new information for	S = select the idea to represent	
O = offer connecting details	telling facts	H = hunt for significant elements	
G = gather explanations	O = observe obvious connections	O = organize elements to show	
I = identify the most sensible reason	I = identify patterns, and find a fit	meaning	
C = conclude and communicate	N = name the connection that makes	W = weed for accuracy and impact	
	sense		
COGNITIVE TRANSFER p. 161			
Synthesize p. 163	Generalize p. 173	Apply p. 181	
B = begin with the big picture	T = take it all in with the first reading	U = use it in a talk-through	
L = look at the elements	H = hone in on the key ideas of the	S = simulate it in a guided walk-	
E = extract the essence	piece	through	
N = name the nuggets	E = extrapolate one big (prevailing)	E = extend and employ the learning	
D = design a seamless image	idea	independently	
	M = make a motto or slogan about the		
	big idea		
	E = express the theme statement		